GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3762
ANSWERED ON:17.04.2008
ENVIRONMENTAL CLEARANCES FOR EXPLORATION BY ONGC
Gangwar Shri Santosh Kumar

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) is required to take environmental clearances before taking up its activities; and

(b) the number of projects/activities/drilling of wells costing more than 100 crores completed in last five years (2001-06) by ONGC, alongwith full details of date of approval of the projects, date of start and completion of the projects, date of application for environmental clearance and date of issue of EC?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS(SHRI DINSHA PATEL)

(a) Yes Sir.

(b) Jurisdiction of Environmental Impact Assessment of development projects notification dated 27th January, 1994 issued by Ministry of Environment and Forest is applicable upto Indian territorial water only. The said notification has been notified under THE ENVIRONMENT (PROTECTION) ACT, 1986, which also extends to the whole of India i.e. upto Territorial water only. ONGC's offshore operations are mostly in Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) area where obtaining Environmental Clearance as per the said notification is not applicable. ONGC, has been submitting applications for grant of Environmental Clearance to Ministry of Environment & Forests as required by the notification. The details of projects/activities/drilling of wells costing more than Rs. 100 crores completed in last 5 years (2001-2006) are available with ONGC.